

CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

TO: All Legislators

FROM: Representative Jesse Kremer

DATE: August 17, 2015

RE: Co-Sponsorship of LRB -2659/1, Relating to: trolling permits issued to persons whose sight is impaired.

DEADLINE: Monday, August 24 at 5:00 p.m.

To “troll” is to trail a lure or bait from a boat powered by a motor. In July 2015, a trolling rule was implemented in Wisconsin to allow anglers to troll for fish on inland waters statewide. However, the Natural Resources Board added a sunset clause to this rule, doing away with statewide trolling by 2018.

Passage of this bill would ensure that when the current rule sunsets in 2018, blindness would be included in the statutory list of disabilities eligible for a trolling permit. This permit will also allow for an “assistant” to fish and troll with the blind individual.

DNR biologists have confirmed that no harmful biological effects to fisheries in lakes have occurred where trolling is legal. Per the DNR, trolling is broadly allowed in surrounding states and Canadian territories.

To be added as a cosponsor, please call 6-9175 or reply to this email. The deadline to cosponsor this legislation is **Monday, August 24 at 5:00 p.m.**

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to issue trolling permits to persons whose eyesight is impaired. Under current law, DNR issues trolling permits, without charging a fee, to persons who have an amputation or other loss of an arm or who have a permanent, substantial loss of function in one or both arms or hands. A trolling permit allows a person who holds a fishing license to fish or troll using an electric motor.

This bill requires DNR to also issue a trolling permit to a person who produces a certificate from a licensed physician or optometrist stating that his or her sight is impaired to the degree that he or she cannot read newspaper print with or without glasses.